

**CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY**  
**REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 6/5/2020**  
**AMENDING RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESSING AND WITHIN THE COURTHOUSE**

WHEREAS the world and its many governments are responding to a novel coronavirus ("SARS-CoV-2") which causes a new disease ("COVID-19");

WHEREAS on March 5, 2020, the Governor declared "that a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency exists within the entire state of Maryland;"

WHEREAS on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the spread of COVID-19 qualified as a pandemic;

WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals issued an order suspending non-essential judicial activities in Maryland's courts, and on March 16, 2020 restricted courts to emergency operations;

WHEREAS it is imperative to protect the health and safety of employees, judges, attorneys and litigants during emergency operations and for the foreseeable future;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Rule 16-105(b), it is hereby:

**ORDERED**, that the following persons shall not enter the Circuit Court premises, without prior permission of the Administrative Judge:

- Persons who have traveled to or been in any region or country for which the CDC has issued a level 3 Travel Health Notice in the last fourteen (14) days;
- Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has been in another country within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine or self-isolate by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Persons who are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e. cough, shortness of breath, flu-like symptoms), have a fever;
- A Person who after screening with a contactless thermometer has a temperature of 100 f or higher.
- A visitor or staff to the Court House not wearing face covering. Said face covering to remain in place during entire time in Court House, and it is further

**ORDERED**, that all individuals over the age of two (2) and who have no documented medical reason to not wear a face covering, entering or travelling within, the Circuit Court for Saint Mary's County, shall wear a mask or face covering effective 7:00 a.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that judges, magistrates, staff, and other occupants of the Courthouse while working in a public area or in Court House common areas where they are likely to encounter the public shall wear a face mask or covering; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that judges, magistrates, staff, and other occupants of the Courthouse while in non-public areas of the Courthouse may not be required to wear face covering, subject to their supervisor's permission, but are required to practice social distancing, and practice appropriate hygiene recommendations at all time in their work areas in the non-public areas of the Courthouse; and it is further

**ORDERED**, judges, magistrates, staff, litigants and other visitors of the Courthouse will be required to wear face coverings, practice social distancing, and practice appropriate hygiene recommendations at all time in each courtroom, unless specifically excused by the presiding judge or magistrate during a court proceeding and even if excused, only if the individual feel safe and comfortable with the below exception; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that witnesses while testifying shall not wear face covering unless excused of removal by the presiding judge or magistrate and all other parties in the case; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that staff is defined as any employee of the Maryland Judiciary, including but not limited to Judges and Magistrates, Office of the State's Attorney, the Register of Wills, and members of St. Mary's County government; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that staff of the Saint Mary's County Sheriff's Office are exempt from this Order but are to follow the policy established by their Sheriff's Office as to face coverings while operating in the Court House; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that the Saint Mary's County Sheriff's Office shall deny access to anyone who is not compliant with this Order; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that the Sheriff's Office shall post this Order on the doors or within a reasonable area of the doorways and entrances to any courthouse or building used by this Court to conduct business; and it is further

**ORDERED**, that if you are scheduled or required to appear in the Circuit Court for Saint Mary's County, and you are unable to appear because of the restrictions in this Order, you are directed to proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;

- If you are an attorney or are unrepresented and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact the Saint Mary's Circuit Court Case Management Office at 301/475-7844 ext. 74101.

and it is further

**ORDERED**, that the Administrative Order 4/17/2020 Restrictions on Accessing Court House, shall be and hereby is rescinded; and it is further

**ORDERED**, to the extent that this Administrative Order conflicts with extent Administrative Orders of this Court, this Administrative Order shall prevail; and

**ORDERED**, that the restrictions in this order will remain in place indefinitely, pending further order of this Court.

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Michael J. Stamm, Administrative Judge  
Circuit Court for Saint Mary's County